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### ECONOMIC GROWTH

(Economic Reform, Private Sector Development, Trade and Agriculture)

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## Upgrading the Campo Uno-Lamitan Road in Tuburan



Tuburan Mayor  
Durie Kalahat

(The photos in today's feature are taken by Charlie Saceda and Frenchie Carreon. The story below is from an information sheet released by the Growth with Equity in Mindanao Program.—Ed.)

To help spur and augment regional economic growth, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) financed the construction of 40 regional infrastructure projects and 830 smaller barangay infrastructure projects in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and neighboring conflict-affected areas of Mindanao. In addition to supporting economic growth, these infrastructure facilities demonstrated the continuing commitment of both the Philippine and U. S. Governments to fostering peace and development in Mindanao.

Under the Regional Impact Program (RIP), USAID's Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program designs and constructs vital projects such as ports, roads, and bridge improvements in conflict-affected areas of Mindanao. These projects are undertaken in partnership with the regional and provincial government, local governments, and government agencies.

Lamitan City and the municipalities of Akbar, Hadji Mohammad Ajul (two municipalities created out of Tuburan in 2006) and Tuburan are located on the northeast quadrant of Basilan Province southeast of Isabela City, the provincial capital. The three municipalities, with a majority of the



Growth with Equity in Mindanao deputy project manager for infrastructure projects Carlos Tan briefs US Ambassador Kristie Kenney on the Lamitan-Tuburan road project in Basilan province. CHARLIE SACEDA

residents being Yakans' and Tausugs, are composed of thirty barangays with a total land area of 118 square kilometers and a total population of 42,550 as of the 2000 Census.

Prior to GEM's involvement, Tuburan, Akbar, and Mohammad Ajul municipalities were accessible (by land) only by poor rough roads. The difficulty of access contributed to slow economic growth, widespread poverty and peace and order problems in the area. Sald towns witnessed multiple conflicts between the military and the Abu Sayyaf and rogue elements of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in late 2001 and again in 2007.

The 13.38 kilometer-long Campo Uno-Tuburan Road is the primary connecting route from the

Assemblyman Hatimil Hassan, Vice-Gov. Al-rashed Sakkalahut, Mayor Tahira Ismael, Tuburan mayor Durie Kalahat, and Task Force Thunder commander Gen. Juanecho Sabban join US Ambassador Kristie Kenney, USAID Mission Director Jon Lindberg and GEM Project officials for this photo, following the unveiling of the road project marker.



US Ambassador Kristie Kenney together with USAID and local government officials inaugurate the Campo-Uno to Tuburan road project in Basilan province. CHARLIE SACEDA

Muslim Mindanao Basilan District to a concrete-paved road, the next 1.2 km section has been prioritized for improvement (concrete-paving) and is presently maintained by DPWH-ARMM.

The GEM-funded part of the road improvement begins in Barangay mamboring in tuburan and ends in Nnaguyan, Mohammad Ajul. The GEM-improved section of 10.88 km is composed of a few short sections concrete pavement and the rest are gravel or earth roadway. The old road was severely damaged in many sections, which made it difficult for passenger jeepneys and other vehicles to pass, especially during the rainy season. Poor road conditions increased the cost of transporting goods to market and inhibited passenger travel. (GEM)

The entire Campo Uno-Tuburan road has a length of about 13.4 km. The first 1.3 km section of the road starting from Cmapo Uno (Lamitan) up to Mamboring (Tuburan) has been upgraded by the Department of Public Works and Highways-Autonomous Region in



US Ambassador Kristie Kenney unveils the road project marker in Tuburan, Basilan province. CHARLIE SACEDA

(Documented Features is the feature section of Zamboanga Today. Contributions and reactions may be sent to [zambotoday.editor@gmail.com](mailto:zambotoday.editor@gmail.com).)